

## Legacy Trust for Recreation and Conservation

### Because people in Washington

- + Love to hike and bike on forest trails.
- + Love to ride on trails and stay in horse camps.
- + Love to walk on wetland boardwalks and interpretive trails.
- + Love to fish in trout streams.
- + Love to be outside doing much more ...

### DNR-managed lands have

**9** million  
visitors  
each  
year.



Each year state lands welcome more than 9 million hikers, hunters, trail riders and campers. Across Washington, state lands provide more than 1,000 miles of trails, 150 recreation sites and a variety of unique landscapes that offer day trips or overnight visits.

State lands in the care of Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are managed for a variety of purposes, and public recreation is welcomed.

In addition, education and scientific research have been encouraged on thousands of acres of state-managed natural areas.

Increasingly, however, visitors face risks related to overuse, overcrowding, and criminal activity on state lands: garbage dumping, vandalism, drug labs. Habitat for wildlife, birds and fish is being damaged, or lost to non-native species.

Providing safe recreational opportunities and protecting habitat requires constant and ongoing management. With growing pressures on limited state budget funding, fewer and fewer dollars are available for repairs, maintenance and enforcement.

A new approach is needed to find funding to protect important recreation and natural areas, and DNR has found a way.

6.6 million dollars

### 1991-1993

Ten years ago there were 139 recreation facilities and 500 miles of trail. Today we have 150 facilities and more than 1,000 miles of trails.

### 2001-2003

**In today's dollars, DNR's Recreation funding has dropped by 50%**

5.6

4.6

3.6

2.6

1.6

0.6

## Popular Places

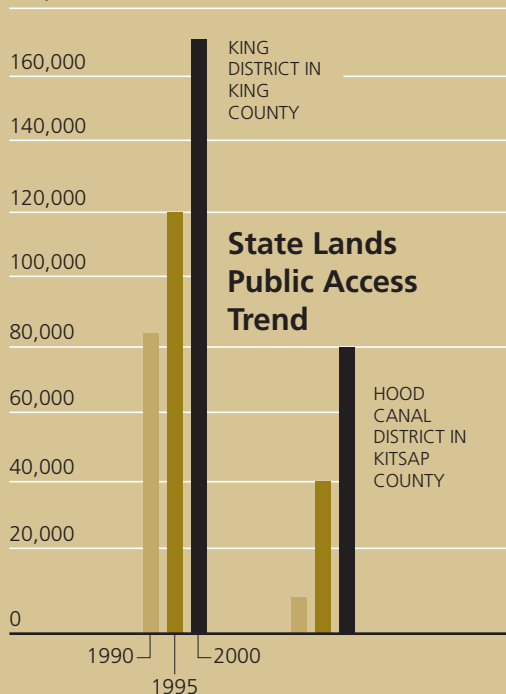
Washington's population is growing fast. If trends continue, in 50 years it will increase by about 5 million people, or 29 more Tacoma-sized cities. As neighborhoods replace open lands and patches of forest around communities disappear, people are looking for other places to walk, ride, camp and hike—to enjoy experiences essential to their Northwest way of life.

As development spreads, more and more people are moving their recreation into DNR-managed state forests, most of which are located within 30 minutes of highly populated areas, especially in the Puget Sound Basin.

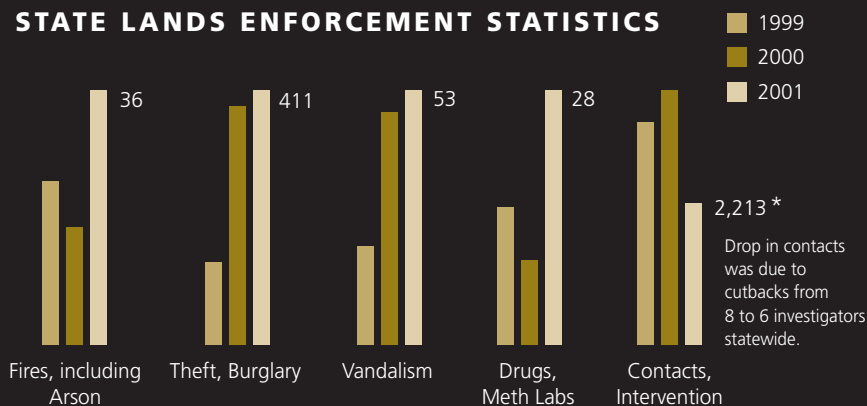
Washington's DNR manages 2.1 million acres of forested state trust lands. While providing hundreds of millions of dollars each year to build public schools and universities, trust lands offer a wide variety of opportunities — from biking and off-road-vehicle trails to camping, hunting, hang-gliding, horseback-riding, fishing and bird-watching.

In addition, DNR-managed state Natural Areas such as Mount Si and Dishman Hills offer educators places to take their students to study native plants and animals in unaltered ecosystems, and offer hikers lush and beautiful trails and vistas to enjoy. And many sites offer prime research opportunities.

180,000 visitors to 4 trails



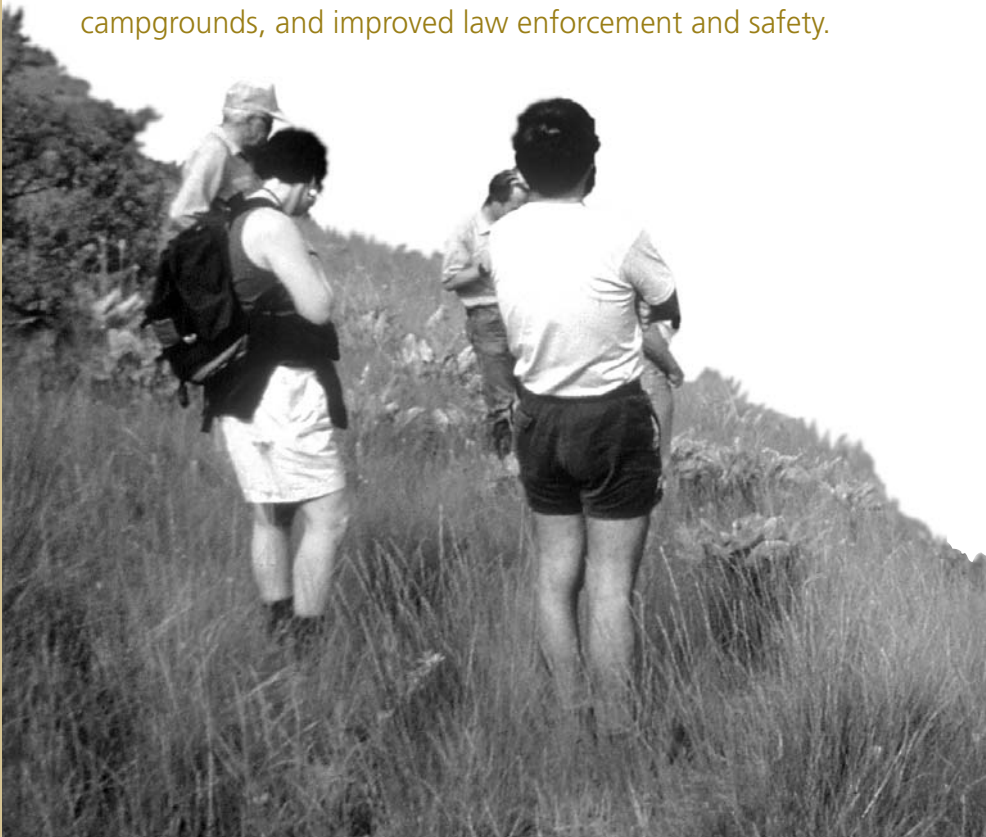
## STATE LANDS ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS



## The Challenge

### A Bold Approach: Legacy Trust

The Legacy Trust for Recreation and Conservation is a bold and innovative way to generate sustainable funding to keep state lands open and safe for millions of visitors each year. The concept is to support public use of managed lands by managing lands. With Legislative approval, the new trust would acquire forestland and other land assets, which would be managed to generate a consistent and sustainable stream of new revenue for stewardship of natural areas, maintenance of trails and campgrounds, and improved law enforcement and safety.



**PROPERTY  
DAMAGE**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACTS**



**PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT**



**LOSS OF RARE  
SPECIES AND NATIVE  
ECOSYSTEMS**



**MAINTAINED  
FACILITIES**

More campground hosts, improved law enforcement, removal of illegal garbage.



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

Prevent erosion, build bridges to protect streams and wetlands, provide stewardship of healthy forests and protect critical natural areas.



**SAFER  
RECREATION**

Improve trail systems, and law enforcement to keep campgrounds, forests and trails safe for families.



**STEWARDSHIP  
OF NATURAL AREAS**

Higher level of stewardship to protect ecosystems, develop appropriate trails and interpretive signs, more educational docents.

## Multiple Benefits for the Long Term

Following some of the highest forestry standards in North America, responsible timber harvest on these new trust lands would generate revenue to:

- Maintain trails and campgrounds and improve safety and law enforcement on state lands.
- Preserve important natural areas across the state.
- Ensure that trails and campgrounds limit environmental impacts.
- Protect forestland threatened by neglect or encroaching development.

A reliable source of funds to maintain campgrounds and trails, and to provide stewardship of state natural areas.



## What kind of lands would be part of the Legacy Trust?

DNR would seek a mix of land assets to be managed for revenue production. The primary new trust asset would be commercial forestland, possibly including working forestlands at risk of conversion to development. Commercial agricultural lands and selected commercial properties also would be included.

Over time, as lands and assets are acquired, the goal would be to receive about an 8- to 12-percent return with at least \$5 million to \$10 million per year generated from their management to fund conservation and recreation. In the start-up years, it may be necessary for a small amount of start-up funding to be allocated directly to support these purposes.

## How would money be spent?

Spending plans for the Legacy Trust Lands income would be adopted by DNR in consultation with an advisory body representing diverse groups. The groups would include parts of the recreation and conservation communities as well as others. The Legislature would then appropriate funds from a new dedicated trust account, consistent with those short- and long-term spending plans.

Funding would help DNR provide safe, enjoyable recreation by increasing law enforcement, and design and build trail systems that are fun for visitors and that protect ecosystems. Providing safe drinking water, keeping sites open, and creating more disability access also would be funded.

Invasive non-native species such as spartina or Scot's broom can destroy our natural areas' native systems, so in addition to building interpretive trails and hiking paths for the public, identifying at-risk plants, restoring native vegetation and other measures to maintain ecosystems are essential to the program.

## How would the Legacy Trust be started?

The proposed Legacy Trust for Recreation and Conservation would begin with legislative authority to acquire revenue-producing lands. Like the other trust lands that DNR manages, this would be a "dedicated trust." Funds generated would be dedicated to supporting specific functions, similar to how other state trust lands support specific beneficiaries such as public schools. For the Legacy Trust, public recreation access and conservation stewardship would be the beneficiaries. Funds would pay for public access on state-owned forests and range lands, shorelines, and stewardship of state conservation areas and preserves.

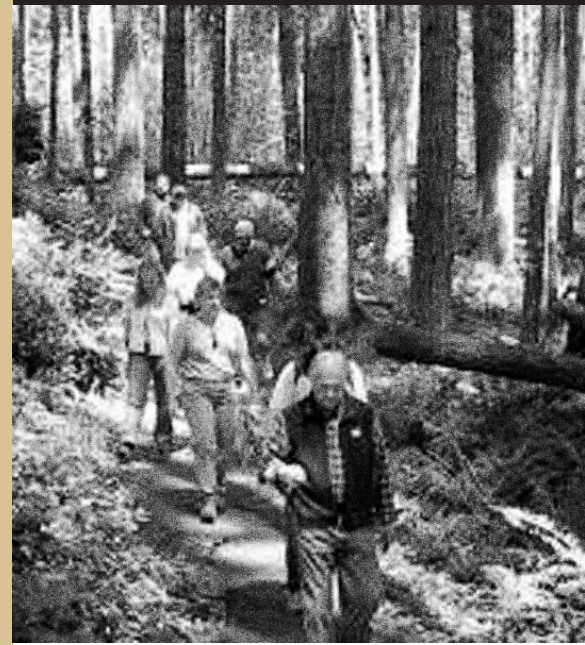
## Funds would help pay for recreation on state-owned forests, shorelines, and range lands, and for natural areas stewardship.

## What are the next steps?

Once legislative authority is granted, the next steps would include:

- ▶ Seeking funding from public and private sources for start-up money, including state general obligation bonds and revenue bonds, federal grants and private philanthropy.
- ▶ Seeking to acquire at least \$25 million to \$50 million per year during a ten-year start-up period.
- ▶ Consulting interested parties and community leaders to determine the kinds of lands to acquire for the new trust.

For information, call DNR at 360-902-1000.  
DNR's website: <http://www.wa.gov/dnr>.



I am proud to help steward lands that offer recreation to millions of people each year, and keeping state lands available to everyone is one of my highest priorities. As pressure on the state budget grows, however, funding to meet the needs of recreation and proper stewardship of natural areas has not kept pace.

The Legacy Trust for Recreation and Conservation would meet that need by responsibly managing new state lands to generate needed funds.

At statehood, Washington received millions of acres of land from the federal government to help fund schools and universities. Today, while other states have sold their lands, Washington kept them as working landscapes. Now, we want to put that experience to work so future generations can enjoy that same legacy.

With the good input of people across the state, the Legacy Trust for Recreation and Conservation can truly live up to its name.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Doug Sutherland".

**Doug Sutherland**  
Commissioner of Public Lands